

APPROPRIATIONS FOR NAVAJO INDIANS.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

TRANSMITTING

Communication from Commissioner of Indian Affairs, relative to the Navajo Indians on the Bosque Redondo reservation in New Mexico.

FEBRUARY 22, 1868.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

Washington, D. C, February 21, 1868.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit, herewith, a copy of a communication, dated this day, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, relative to the Navajo Indians on the Bosque Redondo reservation in New Mexico. Estimates of appropriations for said Indians were submitted to Congress on the 17th ultimo. The attention of that body is again respectfully invited to the consideration of the subject.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

O. H. BROWNING, *Secretary.*

Hon. SCHUYLER COLFAX,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, OFFICE INDIAN AFFAIRS,

Washington, D. C, February 21, 1868.

SIR: Referring to office reports of the 10th and 15th ultimo, relative to the Navajo Indians on the Bosque Redondo reservation in New Mexico, and submitting an estimate of appropriations required to feed them up to the end of the present fiscal year and for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1869; also for the construction of a dam across the Pecos river, and for other objects tending to make the Indians, in a measure, self-sustaining, I desire to say that the sum, \$100,000, appropriated by Congress to sustain the Navajoes has been exhausted, and unless a further appropriation for that purpose is made at once, it will be impossible to keep them upon the reservation. If allowed to go where they choose, we may expect to hear of murders, robberies and depredations committed by them without number. They would, in time, straggle back to their old homes and renew their former habits and stealing expeditions, with the usual consequences, ending with a war with the whites, at an enormous expense to the government and the loss of many valuable lives.

It must be apparent to every one acquainted with the matter, that the best

policy for the government to pursue in regard to these Indians is to prevent them, if possible, from returning to their old haunts; the good of the Indians, the safety of the white settlers in their vicinity, and the general prosperity of the Territory of New Mexico, depend upon the action of the government respecting these Indians, and it must be evident to all that it is much better for the government, in an economical point of view, to keep them under the control of this department and feed them, so far as the same may be necessary, than it would be to turn them loose and fight them.

I therefore respectfully request that the attention of Congress be again invited to the subject, and an immediate appropriation be urged of the funds asked for in the estimate accompanying said office report of the 10th ultimo.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

N. G. TAYLOR,
Commissioner.

Hon. O. H. BROWNING,
Secretary of the Interior.